

reminds us, "Intellectual disabilities know no boundaries. It cuts across the lines of racial, ethnic, education, social, and economic backgrounds, and it can occur in any family."

As we celebrate the dedication and achievements of these Special Olympics athletes, let us continue in our shared efforts to build a more inclusive Iowa today and for future generations. I applaud our delegation of athletes and am proud they are representing our great state in this year's Special Olympics USA Games. I am happy to name them as Iowans of the Week.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOJAVE AIR AND SPACE PORT

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2022

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Mojave Air and Space Port, which was established with the formation of its airport district in 1972. Located in the western Mojave Desert of Kern County, California, the Mojave Air and Space Port is home to innovative research and testing that maintains cutting-edge

aeronautical and commercial space flight advancements.

The incredible groundbreaking accomplishments that the Mojave Air and Space Port is known for would have seemed impossible in its earliest days, especially when the airfield stood as two dirt runways without any fueling options. Back then the facility was known as the Mojave Airport before it was expanded and used by the U.S. Marine Corps. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, it then became the Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station (MCAAS) Mojave. During World War II, the airfield served as the training grounds for fighter pilots.

Following the military's departure, the airport transitioned back to Kern County. In 1972, an airport district was formed under the leadership of Dan Sabovich, who envisioned a civilian counterpart to Edwards Air Force Base, where our nation's most technologically advanced aircraft are tested and proven. The Mojave Air and Space Port would become home to the National Test Pilot School, the sole civilian test-pilot school in the United States, which was founded in 1981. During this formational era, Burt and Dick Rutan helped produce novel aircraft that broke barriers and created a culture of innovation, laying the foundation for the Mojave Air and Space Port's modern achievements.

One of these accomplishments was reached on October 4, 2004 by SpaceShipOne, which

was the first privately-operated piloted spaceship to surpass an altitude of 328,000 feet twice in the course of a 14-day period, achieving the necessary altitude to win the X Prize. Brian Binnie reached a height of 367,442 feet (69.6 miles) above the Earth's surface during his SpaceShipOne journey. This record and feat helped propel the Mojave Air and Space Port into the aerospace industry and has since experienced significant growth since the X Prize was won.

Today, the Mojave Air and Space Port continues to serve as a pioneer in both commercial space flight and aerospace research, setting new standards and surpassing previously unthinkable limits. From Stratolaunch, one of the world's largest aircraft, to Virgin Galactic, whose spaceships have been developed at the Mojave Air and Space Port, the legacy continues. These achievements have attracted some of the most renowned people in the country, including then-Vice President Mike Pence, who visited in 2017.

On behalf of the 23rd District of California, it is my honor to recognize the Mojave Air and Space Port on its historic 50th anniversary. I eagerly look forward to the next 50 years of technological innovation by the men and women who work at the Mojave Air and Space Port that will continue to pave the way in advancing America's edge in space and aeronautics.